

# AROUND THE TABLE

News and Notes on Solving Hunger in South Dakota

FEEDING  
SOUTH DAKOTA



## Thank You for Keeping More Kids Nourished All Summer Long

Statewide, more than 1 in 3 of South Dakota's 113,750 food insecure neighbors are children. Including 1 in 5 children, making programs designed to combat childhood hunger so important.

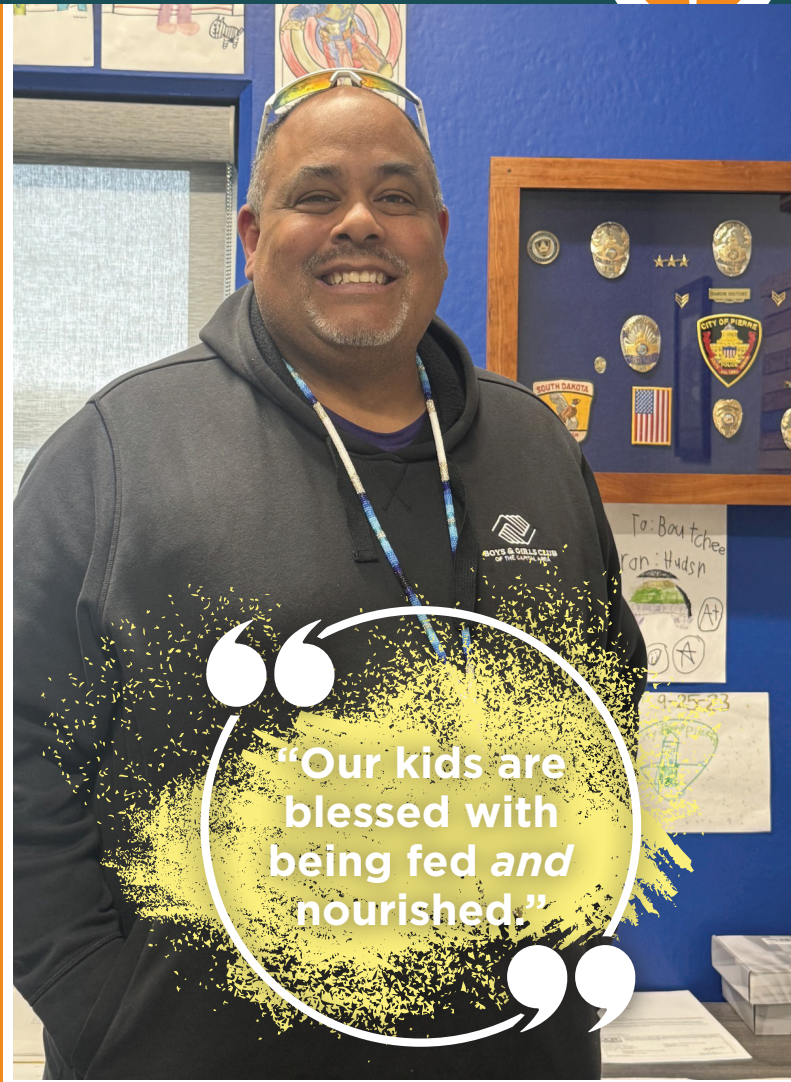
In Pierre, one of the locations that partners with Feeding South Dakota to provide the Summer Backpack Program is the Boys & Girls Club of the Capital Area. Filled with healthy, easy-to-prepare foods, the Backpacks are helping bridge the nutrition gap for kids whose families may lack enough food resources at home to get them through the weekend.

That means the world when school isn't in session, and it's possible thanks to generous donors making gifts all season long.

"Those Backpacks are a crucial part of the summer," said Samson Boutchee, a retired police officer and Director of Operations for the Club. "Our working relationship with Feeding South Dakota is of utmost importance. It is a necessity in a person's life to eat, to have nourishment, and for them to help us feed our children is so important, and we are so grateful," Samson said.

During the most formative years of a child's life, the Club provides activities to maximize a child's academic success and has a focus on health and well-being. There are many opportunities to ensure youth have consistent support – and nourishment that now includes supper. Samson said, "We get an abundance of calls if there are extra snacks; that is helpful and nice."

Samson believes the most important impact of donor generosity goes beyond food; it also helps strengthen the Pierre community. "The community gets to know that we take care of our kids as a whole," Samson said. "Our kids are blessed with being fed *and* nourished."



Food insecurity can have a wide impact on families with little ones. Some parents skip meals so their kids can eat. Others work full-time yet can't stretch their paycheck to cover all their household expenses.

Lack of enough food, or having to choose inexpensive foods with low nutritional value, can increase health problems, impact a child's ability to learn, and slow their development.

Thanks to your commitment, we're able to provide consistent food year-round through Child Hunger Programs across the state. When neighbors — especially children — have daily access to healthy, well-balanced diets, everyone benefits.



## AROUND THE TABLE

WITH LORI DYKSTRA, CEO

A Message From The CEO

Dear Friend,

As kids across South Dakota head back to school, many families are breathing a little easier knowing their children will have access to free school meals thanks to House Bill 1082, which was passed during the 2026 South Dakota legislative session. It's an important step forward for approximately 10,000 students across our state.

But for many kids, the challenge doesn't end when the school bell rings.

When they walk out the door, too many children head home to cupboards that are nearly empty, uncertain where their next meal will come from. That's why school pantries, the BackPack Program, and mobile food distributions remain so important. These programs ensure more children can return to school nourished, confident, and ready to succeed.

Feeding South Dakota can offer these programs across the state because of your generosity. Support from you – our donors and volunteers – makes a meaningful difference by helping children in our communities receive the food they need not only to learn and grow in the classroom, but to feel cared for and supported beyond it.

I'm grateful that together we're helping to bridge the gap for families during the times school meals are unavailable.

With gratitude,

# Monthly Giving: 605 Meal Makers

Do you want to **help keep healthy food within reach for families this summer, and all year long?**

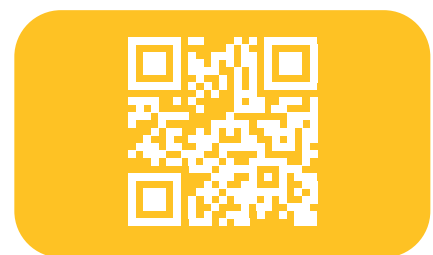
BECOME A 605 MEAL MAKER TODAY, AND YOUR DONATION EACH MONTH WILL BE MATCHED THROUGH DECEMBER!



Giving monthly to Feeding South Dakota helps provide dependable support for children and families experiencing food insecurity.



Gifts renew automatically, making it easy to donate year-round and helping Feeding South Dakota plan ahead and respond consistently across the state.



A monthly gift of just \$15 can feed a child or adult one warm, nourishing meal every day of the month. A gift of \$50 monthly can provide someone three healthy meals for 100 days straight.

## Your Support Warms Her Heart:

### *How One Devoted Mom and Foster Parent Is Making Ends Meet*

Earlier this year, Stacy arrived at the Catholic Parish Center in Leola for Feeding South Dakota's mobile distribution. The monthly food giveaway is made possible by donors and friends like you.

In this rural town of about 400, the distribution draws neighbors like Stacy from far and wide. Stacy is a loving mom to an adult daughter with special needs. She's also a dedicated foster parent to as many as six children at a time, so she knows how crucial it is to have access to food.

The rewards of providing a loving home for children run deep. Stacy told us, "Those who do foster care will probably do it for a lifetime, even though we don't always know if we will have one child or six children in our home!"

Yet, the commitment comes with challenges: "The price for food is going up so high, and the older they get, the more they eat," she explained. Access to nutritious food is critical for kids to grow, play, and thrive, and it's especially important to have it available to families in the communities they live in. Although there is a grocery store available in a neighboring town, Stacy shared that it's small in size, limiting the selection of fresh foods.

What's more, while the counties that place children in the home offer some assistance, the family pays for many basics out of their own pocket.



To help, they grow much of their own food during the summer and can some of the produce to use in the fall and winter. But it isn't always enough to last, which makes Feeding South Dakota's Mobile Food Distribution Program a much-appreciated help.

Every month, donor gifts help nearly 11,500 South Dakota families facing hunger receive grocery boxes pre-packed with nutritious foods, such as fresh or frozen produce, protein, shelf-stable items, dairy products, boxed meals, and more. These distributions meet people as close as possible to where they live, filling a critical gap in places where fresh foods are hard to come by.

"This [food] is the biggest need," Stacy emphasized. "This is why we really appreciate Feeding South Dakota's food program."

**"... we really appreciate  
Feeding South Dakota's  
food program"**



**HUNGER ACTION MONTH PAGE**



**MONTHLY GIVING DONATION PAGE**



**ADVOCATE PAGE**



**VOLUNTEER PAGE**

# Hunger Action Month

This September, join Feeding South Dakota for our annual Hunger Action Month awareness campaign and be part of the solution. Throughout the month, our distribution centers will host opportunities to learn more about our mission, connect with our work, and take action on behalf of neighbors facing hunger.

Whether you choose to give, volunteer, or advocate, every action helps ensure South Dakotans have access to the food they need. Together, we can strengthen our communities and create a future where no one has to wonder where their next meal will come from.

Visit our website to learn more and find your way to take action.

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